

Whereas, it is with great pride and sincere admiration that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to recognize an outstanding group of Missouri residents who have distinguished themselves as heroes in the Poplar Bluff community; and

Whereas, several employees of the Butler County Health Department are to be commended for their efforts in saving the lives of three Poplar Bluff residents after a fire broke out in their home on November 17, 2003; and

Whereas, Krystal Buchanan and her two children, Malachi and Achono, were sleeping in their home at 909 Foley Street when a fire was ignited from combustible materials that were close to a burner that had been left on atop the kitchen stove; and

Whereas, Butler County Health Department employee Linda Moore was returning from lunch when she noticed smoke coming from the Buchanan home, at which time she alerted a colleague of the situation and calls were made to the fire department, emergency medical services, and to the Poplar Bluff/Butler County Emergency Management Agency, which is located next to the health department; and

Whereas, EMA Director Spencer Shain quickly ran to the house, which had filled with a tremendous amount of smoke, and determined that he would need his fire gear and a breathing apparatus from his truck before he could enter the home; and

Whereas, once the children were safe outside, Shain received assistance from Registered Nurses Donna Pinner and Jenny Richards, who administered CPR to the children until Poplar Bluff firefighters arrived on the scene and transported the family to Three Rivers Healthcare-North Campus where they were admitted for treatment of smoke inhalation; and

Whereas, a terrible tragedy was averted thanks to the courage and readiness of Butler County Health Department staff members Melissa Dunnegan, Donna Pinner, Linda Moore, Sherri Harper, and Jenny Richards, and Emergency Management Director Spencer Shain, all of whom are to be congratulated for their heroic efforts:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join in expressing our utmost appreciation to Sherri Harper for her role in saving the lives of three Poplar Bluff residents, and in wishing her only the very best as she continues to serve as an inspiration to all those who know and love her; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Sherri Harper, as a mark of our esteem for her.

Offered by _____
Representative Gayle Kingery
District No. 154

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 4800, adopted December 8, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker